

Negotiating Nations:

Scandinavian Discourse on Identity & Expression

Friday the 7th of October 2016

The University of Edinburgh

50 George Square, Room 1.06

SESSION 2: **250 Years of Press Freedom**

Sweden's Contribution to Open Communications

In 1766, the Swedish parliament enacted a Tryckfrihetsförordning (Press Freedom Act), the first of its kind in the world. Although the Act itself was shortlived, it provoked lively and lasting debate on the importance of freedom of expression in enlightened societies. This session will explore the background to the Act, its cultural context as evinced through legal, literary and translation studies, and the ongoing significance of the issues it raises. Speakers include Helena Jäderblom (a Swedish judge at the European Court of Human Rights), Dr Jonas Nordin (Docent at the National Library of Sweden), Dr David Goldberg (Coordinator of Project Forsskål), with Peter Graves and Ian Giles (University of Edinburgh).

13:15-13:30 **Introduction**

13:30-14:00 **'Peter Forsskål: Author of one of the last known jewels of Enlightenment literature'**

Dr David Goldberg

14:00-14:30 **'Does it translate? The translation of an 18th century legal text'**

Ian Giles & Peter Graves

14:30-14:50 Coffee Break

14:50-15:30 **'The world's first Freedom of Information Act? The background and significance of Sweden's 1766 Freedom of Print Act'**

Dr Jonas Nordin

15:30-16:10 **'Access to official information: A long and a short story'**

Helena Jäderblom

16:10-16:20 Break

16:20-17:00 **Discussion: 'The way forward for press freedom and open communications?'**

17:00-18:00 Reception